



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office General Order Policies and Procedures Manual Pueblo County Law Enforcement Bureau Section 8	
Chapter: Part 10	Subject: Barricaded Subject/Hostage Rescue
Related CALEA Standards:	

Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to Sheriff David J. Lucero's directive in which authority to manage and direct all activities connected with the barricaded subject/hostage rescue is delegated to the Law Enforcement Bureau Chief.

Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to provide general guidelines for handling hostage/barricaded subject situations

Policy

It shall be the policy of this Office to utilize specially trained and equipped teams, whenever possible, to affect the safe and successful arrest of criminal suspects, safe release of hostages and successful recovery of barricaded subjects. It shall be the policy of this Office to consider the lives of the hostages, civilians and deputies involved to be of the utmost importance.

Strive for a safe and successful resolve of the incident through communication with the suspect; and to develop and maintain the ability to use alternative approaches (specially trained and equipped teams) should communications fail. In hostage situations, to make every reasonable effort to effect a safe release of the hostages.

Definitions

Barricaded Subject

Any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, office members or civilians and who is in a stronghold position. An Individual who resists being taken into custody and who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, office members or civilians. Generally, the barricaded person is behind cover.

Hostage

Any person held by another against his or her will by force, or threat of force whether implied or expressed

Procedure

Patrol deputies confronting hostage / barricaded subject incidents shall not initiate tactical actions other than those necessary to protect the lives and safety of themselves or others consistent with the Use of Force Policy of this Office.

Patrol deputies arriving at the scene of a hostage / barricaded subject incident should: notify a patrol supervisor of the incident and circumstances; contain and isolate the scene by establishing an inner and outer perimeter; and whenever possible, begin evacuation of all nearby citizens and / or residents.

The highest ranking deputy on scene of a hostage/barricaded incident shall be in command until specifically relieved by a deputy of higher rank or a supervisor.

Upon arrival at the incident scene, the supervisor should:

- Determine if a crime has been committed and locate victims
- Request assistance from the Special Weapons and Tactics Team, K-9 deputy, ACOVA and trained negotiation personnel
- Ensure scene isolation, inner and outer perimeter containment;
- Ensure notification of Sheriff and Command Staff, conduct a briefing of the incident with command, tactical, and hostage negotiation personnel
- Designate a radio channel for incident operations
- Establish traffic and crowd control measures, establish a personnel staging area, command post, negotiations center, and a media staging location
- Ensure that fire equipment and emergency medical services are at a designated area on scene.

Upon arrival at the incident scene, duties of the SWAT team commander should include:

- Assist the deputy in charge in assessing the situation
- Formulate and provide the deputy in charge with recommended tactical alternatives should communications with the subject fail to resolve the incident
- Determine equipment needs and assign deputies to control and contain the inner perimeter
- Designate sharpshooters and entry teams as necessary
- Prepare appropriate logistical, assault and entry plans
- Maintain contact with and keep the deputy in charge informed of all developments and operations.

The negotiations team members should initiate communication with the subject in an attempt to peacefully resolve the situation. Non-negotiable items in resolution of the situation are weapons or replacement hostages. If negotiations fail, or at the discretion of the supervisor in charge, the following options may be considered to resolve the incident:

- Use of chemical agents
- A tactical assault
- Use of open air resolution
- Other tactical actions as deemed necessary by the SWAT Team Commander

All Uses of Force during the hostage/barricaded incident shall be in accordance with the office policy and procedure. After the incident has been resolved, the scene should be surrendered to investigators for proper crime scene processing and documentation.

An After-Action Report should be completed by the supervisor in command detailing the incident. All personnel should be involved in a debriefing of the incident to discuss the following:

1. What happened
2. How the incident developed
3. Who was involved
4. How personnel and SWAT responded
5. What problems were encountered
6. What was effective/ineffective
7. What could be done better in future similar incidents
8. Discuss equipment performance and/ or needs
9. Discuss possible training needs or policy modifications in reference to the incident.



By Order Of The Sheriff